

Minneapolis Redistricting Commission Minutes

Regular Session of the Redistricting Commission

Tuesday, April 2, 2002, 6 PM

Amended 4/8/02

Room 220 City Hall

Present: Commissioners: Trostel, Claypatch, Collier, Ferrara, Finch, Markus, Pettiford, Schwarzkopf, Stafford, Neiman, Scallon

Redistricting Coordinator Susanne Griffin - (612) 673-2073

e-mail: susanne.griffin@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

*Commission Chair Trostel called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
All Commission members were present.*

Susanne Griffin, Director of Elections and Assistant City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Scott Neiman.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Finch moved to approve the agenda. Ferrara seconded the motion. It was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

3. NAACP presentation – 10 minutes

Keesha Gaskins presented a plan that was the work of a coalition. She distributed a packet, which included a black and white map, and a population summary. Vic Thorstenson did technical work on the plan. Gaskins said the wards were within the 5% deviation and were compact. NAACP assumed 30% as the minimum for a minority opportunity ward. In their plan, none of the 7 minority opportunity wards are less than 40% and 6 are not minority opportunity districts. Their goal was to maintain neighborhoods as much as possible. Only Folwell, Willard/Hay and Lyndale neighborhoods are split. The Mississippi River is split just once by Ward 3. Their plan accomplishes their goals of maintaining the neighborhoods, establishing at least 6 minority opportunity districts over 40% and staying with the deviation of 5% and compactness requirements for the City.

4. Approval of the Minutes for March 25, 2002

Claypatch moved to approve the minutes. Schwarzkopf seconded the motion. It was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Tabled item about the timing of park district plans and the park public hearing

Collier moved the following schedule for the Park District lines:

- *discuss guidelines at the April 8, 2002 meeting,*
- *come up with potential maps and plans for the April 11, 2002 meeting,*
- *select a tentative plan on April 15, 2002 to send to the Park Board for their meeting on April 17, 2002,*
- *approve the plan on April 18, 2002.*

Schwarzkopf seconded the motion. It passed with a unanimous voice vote with Markus and Stafford declining to vote because this was a park district matter..

6. Discussion of plans/maps

Schwarzkopf moved to have a 10-minute recess at 6:25pm. Ferrara seconded the motion. It passed on a unanimous voice vote with Scallon and Neiman declining to vote because this was not a park district matter.

Chair Trostel called the meeting back to order at 6:40 p.m.

*Stafford introduced plan **4-1-02**. No incumbents are in the same ward. They tried not to split neighborhoods if at all possible. They tried to abide by the compactness rule. This plan stays with most of the existing outlines or boundaries. They made a ward that encompasses a lot of the Downtown neighborhoods in addition to Elliot Park, Bryn Mawr and well as Kenwood and half of CIDNA. The deviation goes from -3.62% in Ward 5 to +2.44% in Ward 12. There are 4 minority opportunity wards (5, 6, 8, and 9) of over 40% and 2 minority opportunity wards (2 and 3) over 30%.*

*Schwarzkopf introduced plan **4-2-02**. There are only 3 districts (Wards 2, 4 and 6) slightly over 2% deviation otherwise the wards are within 1% or less. The incumbents are in own wards except for 2 people. It is his understanding one Council Member is planning to move. There are 3 minority opportunity wards (5, 8, and 9) over 50% and 3 more wards (3, 4, and 6) over 40%. The third person is in his own ward by 3 houses and his side of the street.*

The plans are similar. They have been working with the same groups of people. They have been trying to accommodate everyone in order to put these plans together. They started with the same map. If there were no discussion or controversy then it stayed the way it was.

*Markus reintroduced the **NAACP plan**. Refer to the presentation by Keesha Gaskins in item number 3 of these minutes. He wants it to be considered.*

Collier asked if it would be improper for the Commission to move two tentative plans. Assistant City Attorney Michael Norton said the Charter says the commission shall publish **a** tentative plan, which means one plan.

There was a question **about** the number of neighborhood splits in the plans. Neighborhood lines do not coincide with census blocks. There is difficulty in how to count neighborhood splits. For neighborhoods split two or three ways does that count for more than if it is split just once?

Claypatch move 4-1-02 as the tentative Redistricting Commission Plan. Ferrara seconded the motion.

Several commissioners raised concerns with the tentative plan. Stafford is concerned to minimize splitting of neighborhoods, the lines of Ward 11 and Ward 8. Schwarzkopf could support the plan if Wards 7 and 11 are cleaned up. **Many people have called to say** the north end of Cooper and Longfellow belong in the Second Ward. Commissioner Markus said he could not support the plan. Collier said that the tentative plan is 80% there - in order not to cut neighborhoods it needs some tweaking.

Schwarzkopf moved a substitute motion to bring forward the NAACP Plan as the tentative plan. Finch seconded the motion. Finch, Markus, and Schwarzkopf voted yea and Claypatch, Collier, Ferrara, Pettiford, Stafford voted nay. Chair Trostel declined to vote. The motion failed.

Claypatch called the question on the original motion. Claypatch, Collier, Ferrara, Pettiford and Stafford voted yea. Finch, Markus, and Schwarzkopf voted nay. Chair Trostel declined to vote. The motion passed.

7. New Business

No new business was brought forth.

8. Finch moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Claypatch seconded the motion. It passed on unanimous voice vote.

**Next Redistricting Commission Meeting: April 8, 2002 6 - 8 PM Room 220
City Hall**

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